



Energy Choice Ohio  
powered by *choice.*

Public Utilities Commission of Ohio  
Erin MacLellan, Public Information Officer

# Goals for Today

1. What is energy choice?

History, where we are now

2. What is governmental aggregation?

3. PUCO's Free Resources:

[www.energychoice.ohio.gov](http://www.energychoice.ohio.gov)



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# Energy Choice is:

- Option to buy electricity & natural gas supply from someone other than local utility
- Open to customers of IOUs like AEP & Columbia Gas (not municipal power systems or co-ops)
- Similar to shopping for cell phones, car insurance and other services

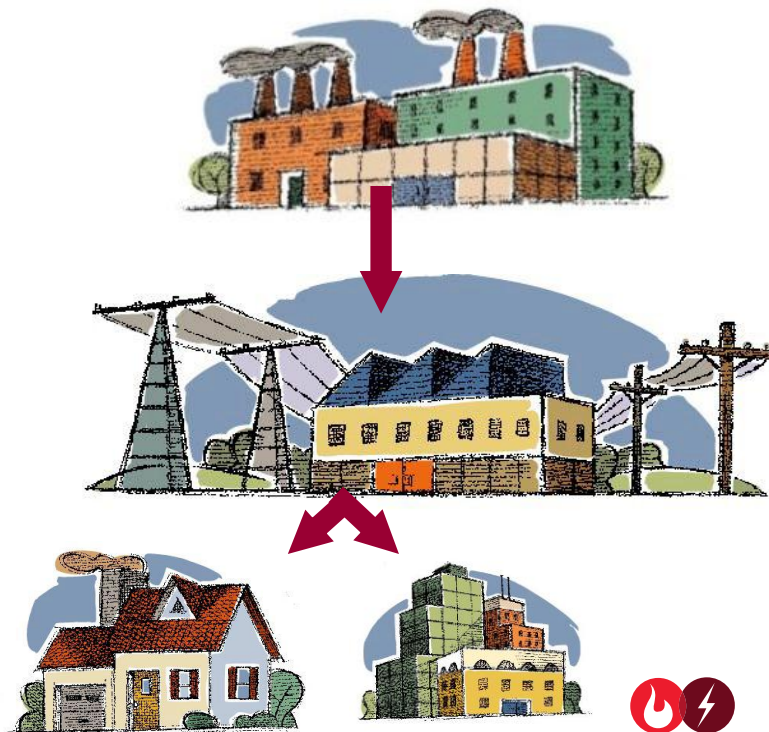
# Restructured Energy Market

Option to  
shop

Generation &  
Supply

Regulated  
Pricing

Transmission  
Distribution



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# What You Need to Know about Shopping

- You are shopping for about **50 percent** of the bill
- The other part of your bill is **fixed** and is still regulated by the PUCO (Distribution costs)
- You still call your local utility for outages, and they will still read your meter



# Two Types of Energy Choice

1. Can shop on your own:

Use *Apples to Apples* charts

2. Option to participate in a government aggregation if offered in your community



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# *Apples to Apples Charts*

- All energy offers, side by side
- You're shopping for 50% of bill
- Review offers at

[www.energychoice.ohio.gov](http://www.energychoice.ohio.gov)

Offers  
Updated  
Daily



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# American Electric Power : Residential

## Search

44 RECORDS FOUND

American Electric Power

My Current Rate (Optional)

Price per kWh:

From \$  to \$

Term Length (months):

From  to

Early Termination Fee:

From \$  to \$

Monthly Fee

From \$  to \$

Renewable Content

All

Rate Type





All

Electric Supplier Listing

All

FILTER RESULTS ▶

CLEAR FILTER ▶

Click to Compare	Supplier	\$/KWh	Rate Type	Renew. Content	Intro. Price	Term. Length	Early Term. Fee	Monthly Fee	Promo. Offers
<input type="checkbox"/>	Public Power LLC 1055 Washington Blvd Suite 700 Stamford,CT 06901 (888) 354-4415 <a href="#">Company Uri</a> <a href="#">Offer Details</a> Terms of Service <a href="#">Sign Up</a>	0.1299	 Variable	0%	No	0 mo.	\$0	\$0	No
<input type="checkbox"/>	Integrays Energy Services Inc 300 West Wilson Bridge Road Suite 350 Worthington,OH 43085 (800) 397-8072 <a href="#">Company Uri</a> <a href="#">Offer Details</a> Terms of Service <a href="#">Sign Up</a>	0.0769	 Fixed	5%	No	6 mo.	\$25	\$0	No
<input type="checkbox"/>	DOMINION ENERGY SOLUTIONS P.O. Box 298 Pittsburgh,PA 15230 (855) 215-3908 <a href="#">Company Uri</a> <a href="#">Offer Details</a> Terms of Service <a href="#">Sign Up</a>	0.0775	 Fixed	0%	No	11 mo.	\$0	\$0	No
<input type="checkbox"/>	Just Energy PO Box 2210 Buffalo,OH 14240-2210 (866) 587-8674 <a href="#">Company Uri</a> <a href="#">Offer Details</a> Terms of Service	0.0825	 Variable	0%	Yes 1 mo. <a href="#">details</a>	1 mo.	\$0	\$0	No



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# Government Aggregation: Community Buying Power

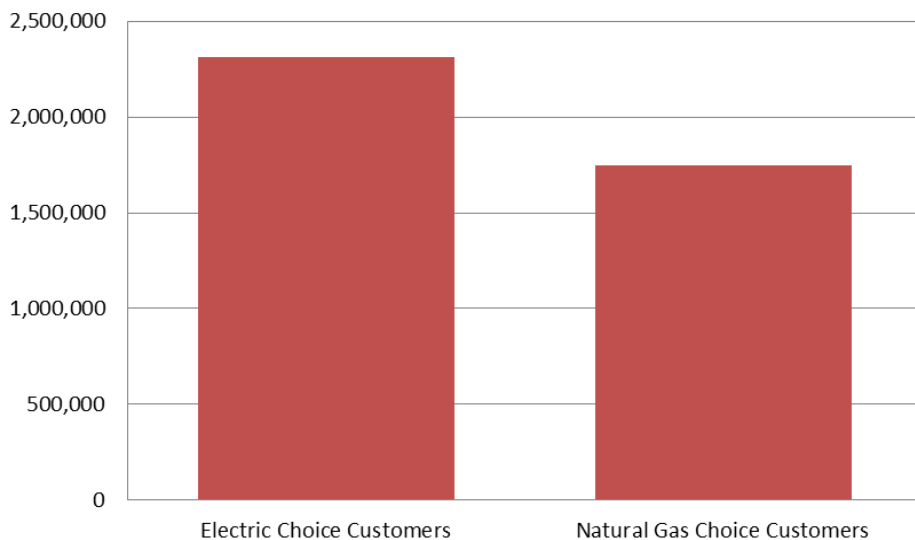
In Ohio, **local governments** are allowed to join citizens together to buy natural gas or electricity as a group.

- This gains "**buying power**" to solicit lowest price
- **Goals of the buying group:** can include **price**, the **sources used to generate energy**, **securing a fixed rate** or additional services



# Customer Response to Energy Choice:

- **Over 2.4 million** customers -- electric choice
- **Over 1.7 million** customers --natural gas choice



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# How many government aggregations in Ohio?

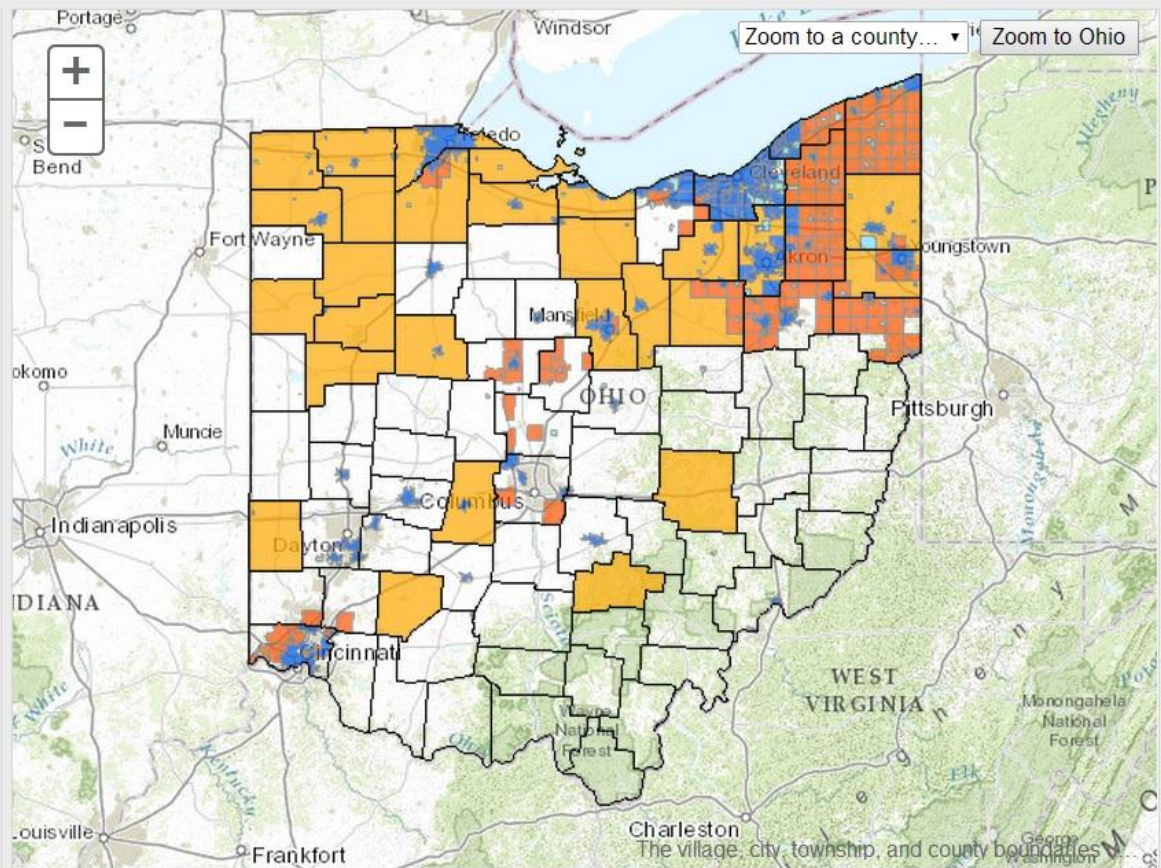
- About **400** Ohio communities have electric aggregations; about **300** have gas aggregations
- Most are in Northeastern and Northwestern Ohio, because prices were highest there
- Aggregation spreading to other areas of Ohio



# Aggregation Map in Ohio

## Map Legend:

- Participating Cities
- Participating Villages
- Participating Townships
- Participating Counties



# Doing Your Research

- Click on aggregation maps, and you can read documents associated with individual community's aggregation such as:
- Supplier they chose; price they are paying; length of contract; termination fees and other details



# Opt-In vs. Opt-Out Aggregation

- **Opt-In Aggregation:** Individuals have to sign up to join the program
- **Opt-Out Aggregation:** Individuals are automatically enrolled in the aggregation unless they Opt-Out
- Opt-Out Aggregations have more members
- More than 90 percent of aggregations are Opt-Outs



# Opt-in Aggregation

- Local government must pass a **resolution** in support of the program
- Must develop a **plan listing details of the contract** and hold **two public hearings**
- Must be **certified by the PUCO**
- Can start signing up people



# Opt-Out Aggregation



- Local leaders must put aggregation on ballot so voters can decide
- If it passes, local leaders create a plan, and 2 public hearings are held, and aggregator must get certified by PUCO





# Opt-Out Letter

- An Opt-Out Letter is sent to people with terms of offer:  
**the price; name of supplier ; length of agreement and early termination fee (if any)**
- You have a deadline to notify the supplier if you want to Opt Out; otherwise you're automatically enrolled



# Other Times You Can Opt-Out

- Beyond the initial Opt-Out notice, the government must allow everyone enrolled in the aggregation the chance to Opt Out at certain periods:
- Customers of **natural gas aggregations** can Opt-Out **every two years** without paying a switching fee
- Customers of **electric aggregations** can Opt-Out **every three years** without paying a switching fee



# Eligibility

Most people and businesses are eligible **except** for:

- Customers enrolled in the **Percentage of Income Payment Plan** (PIPP - a payment plan for low-income customer)
- Customers in a **choice program with other suppliers**.
- You shouldn't receive an Opt-Out letter in these cases, but if you do, send back the card to Opt-out



# For Questions & Information

Consumer Call Center  
**(800) 686-PUCO (7826)** or  
[www.puco.ohio.gov](http://www.puco.ohio.gov)

In 2013, PUCO saved Ohioans \$670,000

